



Rivers SOS

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4th March 2012

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

ATTN: Planning Department: stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: Objection to Cobbora Coal Project – (state owned coal mine proposal) – Application No: 10_0001

Dear Sir/Madam,

This whole mine project will add many millions to the tax burden of the NSW state. If it is not on sold when operational the mine contracts costs will need to be recouped by the price of electricity provided by the power generators. Unless the State is going to operate the mine itself as a department of the State. The economics of this project do not stack up under scrutiny.

There is no guarantee that the electricity generated by the coal will be needed or that the coal produced can be sold on the export markets. To get the coal mined anywhere is going to need new significant infrastructure that is not there already.

The Rivers SOS Group oppose any unjustifiable destruction of rivers and their catchments. The destruction of productive farmland by taking the water it relies on comes under this heading. And the native vegetation that is also part of a healthy ecosystem will be in jeopardy from the depleted supply of water. If this mine is approved it would use in excess of 13ML of water a day for the coal production. This at a time when there is already stress on the whole of the Murray Darling basin. And after the cessation of mining the water allocations bought by the mine would be in their hands and could be owned by a foreign entity with no regard to local farm production.

Any jobs provided by the mine would be at the expense of the extensive agriculture workforce that is employed in the area now. These jobs would only be temporary at best. But the permanent damage to For the protection of the integrity of river systems and water sources against the impacts of extractive industries

the area could not be repaired to enable the resumption of agriculture production of any consequence to take place. This area would be in excess of 47 sq kms. - a huge area, in this age of proven food security problems, effectively taken out of production.

If this mine should start, the social costs to the large area around it would be by experience massively destructive. It would require a workforce around the 1500 mark. Again using similar mines these would be long distance commuters and or live in workers camps. The documented problems of a mine this size show that the locals would have little experience dealing with the disruption of these workers. They would be forced out of the area by the social problems and the cost of living.

All in all this mine proposal should not be granted with a mine licence as the risks involved to the state are immense and an unwanted burden on the people of the state.

Yours faithfully,
Amanda Albury
Rivers SOS President/Secretary